

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A sucker rod coupling comprising:
  - (a) a hollow, cylindrical coupling blank fabricated of hardenable metal;
  - (b) a wear layer on an outer surface of said coupling blank; and
  - (c) fully cold formed threads on an inner surface of said coupling blank.
2. (Original) The coupling of claim 1, wherein said fully cold formed threads are rolled threads.
3. (Original) The coupling of claim 1 wherein said wear layer comprises spray metal heat fused to said outer surface.
4. (Original) The coupling of claim 3 wherein said wear layer has a Rockwell hardness of at least 40 HRC.
5. (Original) The coupling of claim 3 wherein said wear layer is at least 0.010 inches thick.
6. (Original) The coupling of claim 1 wherein said coupling blank is liquid quenched and tempered to a Rockwell hardness of about 27 to 32 HRC.
7. (Original) The coupling of claim 3 wherein said wear layer has a surface finish not exceeding 63  $\mu\text{in } R_a$ .

8. (Currently Amended) The coupling of claim 3 wherein said spray metal comprises 76-M-50-S or similar spray metal powder of about 115 to 325 mesh.

9. (Original) The coupling of claim 1 wherein said coupling blank comprises AISI 8630 or 4130 steel.

10-23. (Cancelled)

Please add the following new claims:

24. (New) The coupling of claim 3 wherein said spray metal comprises a metal powder.

25. (New) The coupling of claim 24 wherein said powder is of about 115 to 325 mesh.

26. (New) The coupling of claim 1 wherein said coupling blank comprises a low carbon, low alloy steel.